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Remarks

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the withdrawal of finality and the withdrawal of the previously asserted 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection.

Applicant's arguments presented below focus on certain patentable differences between the invention as claimed and the applied references. However, it is not to be inferred that the failure to argue all differences between the claimed subject matter and the applied references constitutes acceptance of assertions made in the Office Action of alleged similarities between elements of the claimed subject matter and the applied references.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schessel (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,566). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The following legal requirements are quotes from the MPEP 2131 and establish what is required to sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).
(Emphasis added.)

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to the method for providing Internet protocol telephone set subscribers with call features provided by a public switched telephone network (PSTN) switch. A first packet is received at the **IP peripheral unit which is part of the PSTN switch** where the first packet contains a request for a first call feature. The first IP packet is originated by one subscriber using a first IP telephone set. **The PSTN switch services the one subscriber via an IP connection to the first IP telephone set even though the one subscriber is not a wireline subscriber of the PSTN switch**, e.g. the one subscriber does not also receive service from the PSTN as a traditional wire line subscriber. The IP peripheral unit transmits a second message to a packet line trunk unit of a switch module of the PSTN switch where the second message contains the request for the first call feature. An applications processor contained in the PSTN switch accesses first information contained in a directory database based on the request of the first call feature of the second message. The applications processor retrieves at least a portion of the first information. The PSTN switch transmits the at least portion of the first information to an IP telephone set subscriber in response to the request for the first call feature.

An important consideration in accordance with the invention of claim 1 is that the PSTN switch itself provides call features to IP telephone set subscribers where the IP telephone set subscribers do not have to be also service by another wire line of the PSTN switch, e.g. also served by a traditional twisted pair wire line, in order to obtain IP based services. Schessel does not teach the steps required accordance claim 1 or provide the advantage of providing direct support from the PSTN switch itself to IP telephone set subscribers of call features where the IP telephone set subscribers are not also serviced by another wire line of the PSTN switch.

The Schessel reference primarily addresses a telecommunications system in which calling features are made available from a central office 16a to a wireline subscriber 18 of the central office from either the conventional wireline connection to the subscriber's wireline telephone or while the wireline subscriber remotely accesses the switch by an IP network 14. As explained at Schessel, column 4, line 44 - column 5, line 33, a wireline subscriber 18 may access central

office 16a to obtain calling features already subscribed to as a wireline user when the wireline subscriber accesses the central office from an IP network while remote from his wireline telephone. The internet interface 27 appears to only be used in such a circumstances, i.e. where the call service request comes from an existing wireline subscriber while using an IP device coupled to the IP network 14.

In accordance with Schessel, if a cable user wishes to call another party on the cable system, i.e. where the cable user is not a wireline subscriber of the central office 16a, the cable user dials the called party's telephone directory number which is converted by the router server 30 into a TCP/IP number that is routed through the IP network 14 to gateway 32. The gateway 32 converts the TCP/IP address to the called party's telephone directory number which is output from the gateway 32 to a trunk unit 23 of a central office. That is, it is the purpose of router server 30, which is external of the central office 16a, to provide the conversion between a telephone directory number and a corresponding TCP/IP address. Further, it is the function of gateway 32, which is also external of the central office, to convert the TCP/IP address to the called party's telephone directory number which is transmitted in a known central office protocol as an input to a trunk unit 23. See Schessel, column 4, line 5 - 16.

This is contrary to the method of claim 1 in which the PSTN switch itself receives and transmits TCP/IP protocol communications from IP network 54 (see FIG. 2 of the subject application). In this regard, Schessel is similar to the IP PBX described in the Background of the subject application in that elements external to the PSTN switch itself are required in order to interface with the IP service requests. In accordance with the method of claim 1, the PSTN switch itself requires no external assistance in order to directly communicate with and process TCP/IP service requests. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is not anticipated by the teachings of Schessel, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection based on Schessel is requested.

Claim 6

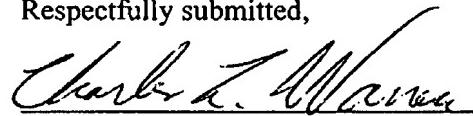
For similar reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1, the rejection of independent claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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